importers buy books at throw-away prices but over-invoicing the sale by quoting the cover price and get higher amount of foreign exchange released; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Directorate of Enforcement have initiated investigations under the provisions of F.E.R. Act, 1973 against seven importers who had indulged in over-invoicing of imports of books by quoting the cover price.

Payment of rent for hiring a tank by the STC

343. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an amount of Rs. 1.2 lakhs has been paid by the State Trading Corporation of India to an edible oil handling agent in Delhi as rent charges for a tank which the Corporation did not hire for the period from August 1986 to August 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the agent was also favoured by waiving of Corporation's stipulations on edible oil handling resulting in losses amounting to more than Rs. 4 lakhs;

(c) whether Government have inquired into the matter to fix responsibility; and

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof and what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No Sir. The excess handling loss initially worked out by STC amounted to Rs. 4.53 lakhs. This was contested by the Handling Agent (HA) which on rechecking was found within the permissible limits. The amount withheld on the basis of initial calculation was released consequently.

(c) and (d) In view of the reply at (a) and (b) above the question does not arise.

Economic offences against former President, NCCF

344. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the replies to Unstarred Question 2781, 1585, 2565 and 3391 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th September, 1986, 10th May, 1988, 1st December, 1988 and 27th April, 1989 respectively and state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has since completed the indepth investigations and finalised assessments pertaining to huge properties worth crores of rupees owned by the former President, NCCF (i.e. "Samrat Hotel", Patna, "Cold Storage" at Danapur, Bihar, "Rice Mill" at Arrah and two Guest Houses, namely "Shyama International Inn" at Safdarjang Enclave, New Delhi and "Sun Village" near Mool Chand Crossing Ring Road, New Delhi etc.) ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the findings and what action has been taken against the guilty for evasion of Government taxes; and